

Hester Proves Great Prospect As Bystander Once Predicted

**Ties Big Ten Dash Mark
First Year In 'Varsity
Ranks.**

**Detroit Boy Bears Out
Promise of High School
Days.**

BY STANLEY BRINK.

Back in 1922, a short, stockily built youth, wearing the colors of Northern high school, closed a brilliant intercollegiate track career. He was a sprinter. As he finished his last race in city competition, a bystander turned to a friend and observed, "that young George Hester, of Northern, is a great prospect for intercollegiate track." And that prophecy was borne out at Evanston a week ago when Hester, now carrying the state and Blue Michigan, tied the western conference record of 2 1/2 seconds for the 50-yard dash in winning the event.

Two weeks previous to the conference meet, Hester sprang into prominence at the Illinois relays when he took first in the special sprint number. It was the first notice to the western track world that Steve Farrell, Michigan's coach, had a candidate who might replace Lester Whitman and Lew Hart Hubbard, his stars of other seasons.

Ran Into Olympics.

But Hester had previously participated in a bigger meet than either the Illinois relays or the western conference championship event. In 1924, while a university freshman, he ran for Canada in the Olympic games at Paris. He did not cover himself with medals but gained a lot of valuable experience in competing against such men as Charlie Lockwood, Alfred LeComer, Frank Hussey, now of Boston college, and Loren Marchison.

In such company, the Detroit boy, to use a track phrase, was "lost." But Hester, as in his high school days, never omitted the chance to learn. And he learned a lot from watching his legs against the fastest men in the United States. As a freshman, he learned from Hubbard and Whitman at Ann Arbor. Overseas, George took a post graduate course. He did not come to Steve Farrell this winter as an experienced youth, not by several years.

It is too early in Hester's career to compare him with Howard Drew, Don Lippincott, Ralph Craig, Dan Reiley and other great sprinters of a decade ago, or with Hussey, Padlock, LeComer, Marchison and Hubbard, of the present generation.

In His First Season.

Yet Hester has the qualifications. He won race after race in high school and still holds the Detroit intercollegiate record for the 100-yard dash. At Northern, he always scored in every event entered. Rival coaches, noted his work.

Buck, as he is known, seemed to go better every time out.

This is his first season of competition at Michigan. It seems he fell out of the faculty last year and the returns from the dean's office were "too low" to permit varsity competition. He had remained out of school a semester because of scholastic difficulties. And when he returned, Hester went after his studies as though he were trying to overhaul a rival who had a three-year lead in a 100-yard dash. And he sprinted well enough scholastically to look Steve Farrell in the eye last February and say "Present, sir, and ready for duty, sir."

Under Farrell's tutelage, a great runner himself in other days, Hester is expected to add to his victories and square points for Michigan. There is no youngster in the Big Ten with any better outlook.

And while Hester is renowned for his sprinting, it is well to say that he was a star in other sports in his prep days. He caught and played third base on the Northern baseball team. As a quarterback in football, he ran his team well and ran back punts better. He worked as hard as he does on the cinder path.

Buck never played basketball to any extent but would have made good had he not preferred indoor track.

In Detroit amateur baseball circles, Hester started with the now defunct Stiglitz A. C. when it ranked as one of the strongest clubs of its class in the city.

If Hester continues to win races for Michigan, he will not surprise his Detroit friends. To them, the main news will be that Buck has failed to place. "That Hester's a goer," said a Northern boy at Goddard one afternoon, when Buck was running back a punt. He still is.



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jeffhollobaugh
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